

U.S. Application No. 09/707,945

Docket No. 0879-0287P

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

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1. (Original) An image file managing method, comprising the steps of: using a recording medium which has unique identification information recorded in a rewrite impossible area; discriminating between presence and absence of an image folder having an image folder name corresponding to the identification information at the time of depositing an image file recorded on the recording medium in an image filing apparatus; depositing the image file in the image folder when the image folder is present; and creating an image folder having the image folder name corresponding to the identification information when the image folder is not present and depositing the image file in the created image folder.

2. (Currently amended) The image filing managing method according to claim 1, wherein ~~an~~ another image file name is created by adding 1 to an image file name which has a largest number out of deposited image files and an image file is

deposited with ~~this created~~ the another image file name when an identical image file name is present in an image folder at the time of depositing an image file which has an image file name including a digit is present in the image folder.

A₁ 3. (Original) The image file managing method according to claim 1, wherein the identification information on the recording medium is read so that access can be made only to image files in an image folder which has an image folder name corresponding to the identification information.

4. (Original) The image file managing method according to claim 1, wherein the image folder name is created by enciphering the identification information.

5. (Original) An electronic camera which records image data on a ^{memory card} recording medium by using the recording medium which has unique identification information recorded in a rewrite impossible area, the camera comprising: an identification information acquiring device which acquires the identification

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information from the recording medium; a retrieving device which retrieves an image folder which has an image folder name corresponding to the acquired identification information; an image folder creating device which creates an image folder having an image folder name corresponding to the identification information when an image folder having the image folder name corresponding to the identification information is not present or when the recording medium is initialized; and a depositing device which deposits image data acquired at a photographing time as an image file together with an image file name in the image folder.

6. (Original) An image filing apparatus which deposits an image file recorded on a recording medium which has unique identification information recorded in a rewrite impossible area, the image filing apparatus comprising: an identification information acquiring device which acquires the identification information from the recording medium; a retrieving device which retrieves an image folder having an image folder name corresponding to the acquired identification information; an

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image folder creating device which creates an image folder having the image folder name corresponding to the identification information when the image folder having the image folder name corresponding to the identification information is not present; and a depositing device which deposits an image file recorded on the recording medium in the image folder corresponding to the recording medium.
